

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant** 

Serial No.

Toshiki KINDO et al.

00/064 707

09/964,797

Filed

September 28, 2001

For

MARKET RESEARCH SYSTEM, MERCHANDISE

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Group Art Unit: 2163

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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Group 2100

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, the Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-003394, to Hitachi Ltd., published January 7, 2000. An English language abstract is provided;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-231590, to Taikodo KK., published August 22, 2000. An English language abstract is provided;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 10-240825, to Chescom International KK., published September 11, 1998. An English language abstract is provided; and

P21481.A01

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 09-288683, to Matsushita Electric Ind. Co. Ltd., published November 4, 1997. The relevance of this publication can be found on page 18 of the specification. An English language abstract is provided.

Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also call the following copending, commonly assigned application to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/738,771 to KINDO et al., filed on December 18, 2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the specification, claims, and drawings of the above-mentioned co-pending application are attached hereto. The Examiner is, none-the-less, encouraged to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. If for any reason the Examiner cannot locate the application, the Applicants will provide any requested materials, if possible.

P21481.A01

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

> Respectfully submitted, Toshiki KINDO et al.

Will 2. Lydl Res. No.
Bruce H. Bernstein 41,568 Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

December 18, 2001 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1941 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191

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